

III. Amendment to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A structure of optically effective diffraction security elements with a metallic reflection layer, ~~characterized by~~ comprising a target oriented electric code of data by additionally applied ~~page 8, lines 7-10~~ beam, grid, bow and/or circularly shaped electrically conductive structures with steep edges towards adjacent non-metallized structures in different planes ~~DE 197 34855~~, ~~[[the]]~~ a line thickness of the smallest electrically conductive structure which may be examined being less than or equal to 5 mm and non-zero.

2. (Currently Amended) The structure of security elements of claim 1, ~~allow~~ allowing examination of security elements, ~~characterized by~~ further comprising a target-oriented electric code of data by additionally applied ~~page 8, line 7-10~~ beam, grid, bow and/or circularly shaped metallized structures with steep edges towards adjacent non-metallized structures in different planes ~~DE 197 34 855~~, ~~[[the]]~~ a line width of the smallest metallized structure which may be examined being less than or equal to 5 mm, but non-zero.

3. (Currently Amended) The structure of security elements of ~~one or more of the preceding claims, characterized by the fact that~~ claim 1, wherein said different electrically conductive structures ~~claim 1~~ possess different electric conductivities.

4. (Currently Amended) The structure of security elements of ~~{one or more of the preceding claims, characterized by the fact that}~~ claim 1, wherein at least two structures within a security element possess different application thicknesses ~~claim 1~~.

5. (Currently Amended) The structure of security elements of ~~{one or more of the preceding claims, characterized by the fact that the}~~ claim 1, wherein a width of an electrically conductive layer of constant electric conductivity corresponds to ~~[[the]]~~ a width of at least two electrodes of an examination apparatus.

6. (Currently Amended) The structure of security elements of ~~one or more of the preceding claims, characterized by the fact that the~~ claim 1, wherein a distance between two electrically conductive structures of ~~[[the]]~~ a same and/or different electric conductivity is at least 0.1 mm.

7. (Currently Amended) The structure of security elements of ~~one or more of the preceding claims, characterized by the fact that~~ claim 1, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ said additionally applied electrically conductive structures are inks or dyes ~~page 6, lines 14-22.~~

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for ~~[[the]]~~ capacitive examination of documents with optically effective diffraction security elements with a metallic reflection layer, ~~characterized by the fact that~~ wherein a capacitively operating scanner (4, 33-35) ~~[[the]]~~ a width of which is larger than ~~[[the]]~~ a largest width of a document DE 197 34 855 examines electrically conductive structures ~~claim 1~~ arranged within metallized security elements ~~[[(37)]]~~ by means of a plurality of transmitting electrodes ~~[[(5)]]~~ arranged in one or more rows in side by side relationship and with a receiving electrode ~~[(6)]~~ extending along the transmitting electrodes ~~[[(5)]]~~ on ~~[[the]]~~ a same side as the document to be examined ~~see description of Fig 1 as well as Fig. 1-10, 13-15 and~~ evaluates ~~[[them]]~~ the structures by electronic energizing and evaluation circuits arranged in the scanner (4, 33-35) for comparing ~~[[the]]~~ a signal pattern of the document to be examined with corresponding reference signal patterns .

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 8, ~~characterized by the fact that~~ wherein at least two adjacent electrodes are arranged electrically connected.

10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~[[8 or]]~~ 9, ~~characterized by the fact that~~ wherein said electronic energizing circuit consists of a current source, a multiplexer ~~[[(10)]]~~, an oscillator ~~[[(11)]]~~ for providing energy for the transmitting electrodes ~~[[(5)]]~~ and an oscillator ~~[[(12)]]~~ for energizing the multiplexer ~~[[(10)]]~~.

11. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of ~~[one or more of claims]~~ claim 8 [to

~~10, characterized by the fact that~~ wherein the electronic evaluation circuit consists of a current source, an amplifier [(13)], a demodulator [(14)], a comparator [(15)], a micro-processor [(16)] with memory as well as filters for ~~[[the]]~~ a suppression of extraneous and interference signals.

12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of ~~[one or more of claims]~~ claim 8 to ~~11~~, ~~characterized by the fact that~~ wherein the smallest distance between two transmitting electrodes ~~[[5]]~~ is smaller than 5 mm, and non-zero.

13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of ~~one or more of claims~~ claim 8 to ~~12~~, ~~characterized by the fact that the~~ wherein a distance between a transmitting electrode ~~[[5]]~~ and the receiving electrode ~~[[6]]~~ is at least 5 mm.

14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of ~~[one or more of the preceding claims]~~ claim 8 to ~~13~~, ~~characterized by the fact that~~ wherein the apparatus is provided with a biasing device which guides the document to be examined parallel to the transmitting and receiving electrodes, ~~preferably biases~~ biased against the scanner.

15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of ~~one or more of the preceding claims~~ claim 8 to ~~14~~, ~~characterized by the fact that the~~ wherein shafts of the document transport rollers are connected to a mass by sliding contacts.

16. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of ~~one or more of claims~~ claim 8 to ~~14~~, ~~characterized by the fact that~~ wherein the apparatus is arranged in high speed document processing machines .

17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of ~~one or more of claims~~ claim 8 to ~~16~~, ~~characterized by the fact that~~ wherein the apparatus is arranged in a manual apparatus.

18. (cancelled)